

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Control: 18045

Rec'd: OCTOBER 28, 1959
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RMR

FROM: BERLIN

HR-m/SG

5/31/91

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 426, OCTOBER 28, 7 P.M.

SENT DEPARTMENT 426; BONN 374; REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON
129, PARIS 118, MOSCOW 142, POLAD USAREUR 45.

PARIS FOR EMBASSY, CINCEUR, THURSTON AND FINN.

REF: OURTEL 420 TO SECSTATE, 369 TO BONN.

IN REGULAR MONTHLY COMMANDANTS' MEETING WITH GOV MAYOR THIS
AFTERNOON, BRITISH CHAIRMAN RAISED QUESTION INTENSIVE PRESS
TREATMENT OF FLAG ISSUE WHICH CAUSING CONCERN TO COMMANDANTS
(SEE BERLIN'S 373 TO BONN, 425 DEPT). CHAIRMAN SAID HE FAVORED
PLAYING DOWN ENTIRE ISSUE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO AVOID PUTTING
EASTERN SIDE IN POSITION OF LOSING FACE IF FLAGS NOT HOISTED.
BRANDT SAID HE FULLY AGREED AND REGRETTED STORIES WHICH
APPEARED IN TODAY'S PRESS. HE HAD ASKED MEMBERS OF SENAT
TO USE UTMOST DISCRETION BUT STATED HE BELIEVED THERE WAS ALSO
NEED FOR CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND CONFERENCE WITH EDITORS-IN-
CHIEF TO URGE PLAY DOWN STORIES ON PREPARATIONS. IN HIS ABSENCE
(HE LEAVING FOR BRUSSELS TODAY) AMREHN WILL MEET WITH EDITORS.

BRANDT EXPRESSED STRONG APPRECIATION FOR COMMANDANTS' POSITION
ON FLAG ISSUE AS REFLECTED IN ALLIED INSTRUCTION TO POLICE PRES.
BRANDT THEN ASKED (1) WHETHER ALLIES WOULD MAKE ANOTHER DEMARCHE
TO SOVIET COMMANDANT; (2) WHETHER ALLIES HAD CONSIDERED QUESTION
OF PRESENCE MILITARY POLICE PATROLS DURING FLAG-REMOVAL
OPERATION. HE FELT SUCH EVIDENCE ALLIED-WEST BERLIN COOPERATION
DESIRABLE EVEN IF FLAGS REMOVED WITHOUT INCIDENT.

BRITISH CHAIRMAN REPLIED THAT APPROACH TO SOV COMMANDANT PLANNED
NOV 2; TEXT OF MESSAGE NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY ALLIED GOVTS;
TO HAVE MAXIMUM DETERRENT EFFECT NO PUBLICITY PLANNED;

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-2- 426, OCTOBER 28, 7 P.M. FROM BERLIN

RE (2), ALLIES FULLY CONSCIOUS NEED GIVING SOME VISIBLE INDICATION
POLICE ACTION HAS THEIR FULL SUPPORT AND BACKING BUT NO DECISION
YET MADE ON HOW THIS TO BE DONE PENDING SUBMISSION BERLIN
POLICE PLAN.

LIGHTNER.

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